PRIMITIVE

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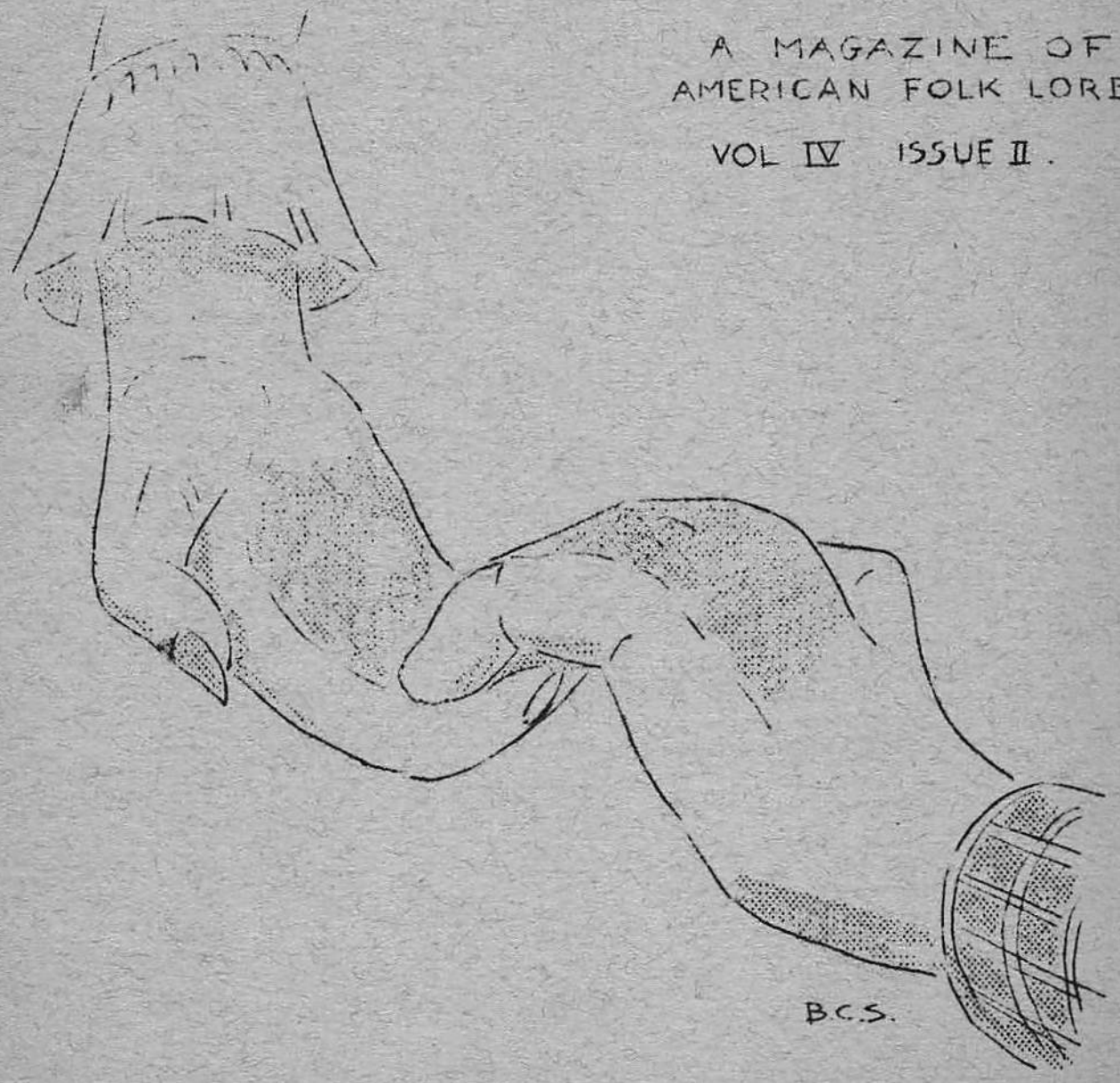

AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE GROUP

MARGOT MAYO.
LEADER.

Dfficial Organ of the American Square-Dance Group

"The purpose of the American Square-Dance Group shall be to make available those rich stores of native dance, music, drama and general Americana, which together comprise American folk culture; to conduct such activities without regard for race, color creed, social position; to cooperate with those who hold similar views."

A.S.D.G. Constitution

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For the longest time, now, I've been sitting in front of my typewriter wondering many things...and remembering many more things!

It has been some time since there has been anything important in the folk world to write an editorial about... and besides, we've been so busy with our group affairs that there has been little time for thought about things other than rehearsals, demonstrations and goodbyes.

That brings me to the writing of some more goodbyes. It seems to be a habit, almost, these days, this farewell-for-a-while business, and a habit which I will gladly break as soon as possible. It's so much more than just saying "So long kids, it's been more than good to know you..." It means remembering walking down Broadway shouting and singing and playing harmonicas; it means Sunday evenings at the Stage Door Canteen; it means painting the walls, scrubbing the floors, taking care of checking and refreshments at "Open House", discussions and laughing and walking home late at night; trying to figure out problems with the kids. It means letters with pleas for material and advice on teaching folk dances. It means watching kids grow up and develop into fine, young fellows. It means saying "Good-bye."

This month of February has slipped quickly away and with it two of our members, Gene Saletan to join the Air Corps, and Don Jamieson. How can one cheerfully part with them? Gene, with his long lankiness and his funny smile that turns up the corners of his mouth in such a Gene-like way; his tremendous blue eyes, his mop of hair. Don, with that marvelous blond hair and his green shirt and his own style of dancing which he learned up in the mountains. These youngsters have become such a part of us that we can't imagine rehearsals and demonstrations and open houses without them. I'm afraid that sketches of them may be missing in this issue. Everytime I tried to sketch Gene he turned either into Abe Lincoln or Pinnocchio, which, I reckon, just about explains Gene. And everytime I tried to sketch Don it looked like nothing at all because of that blondness. But I shall try once more and maybe this time I'll be successful.

Anyway, Gene and Don, good luck and love. I can't say much more without repeating everything I've written about the other boys like "Hurry back," and "Will miss you like anything." Well, you know how the group feels and you know how I feel.

Margot

OLD PINE TREE

(collected by Andy Kmetz in Inlet, New York)

FORMATION: square set
MUSIC: The Old Pine Tree
INTRODUCTION: Honor your partners, corners, circle left.
CALLS:

1) Head lady and opposite gent forward and back

2) Forward again and swing

3) Separate between the sides

4) Forward and back six

5) Lone couple do -si -do

6) Six hands forward and back

7) Active couple cross over

8) Active couple swing in the center and six hands around

CHORUS:

9) Swing your partner

10) Promenade

EXPLANATION:

1) The first lady and the gent of couple three move forward and back

2) Forward again and swing in the center of the set

3) The lady steps between couple two and the gent between four

4) The two lines move forward and back

5) The gent of couple one and the lady of three move forward, passing right shoulders without turning around and move back to place.

6) The same six forward and back again

7) Forward and the active couple changes sides in the middle of the line of six.

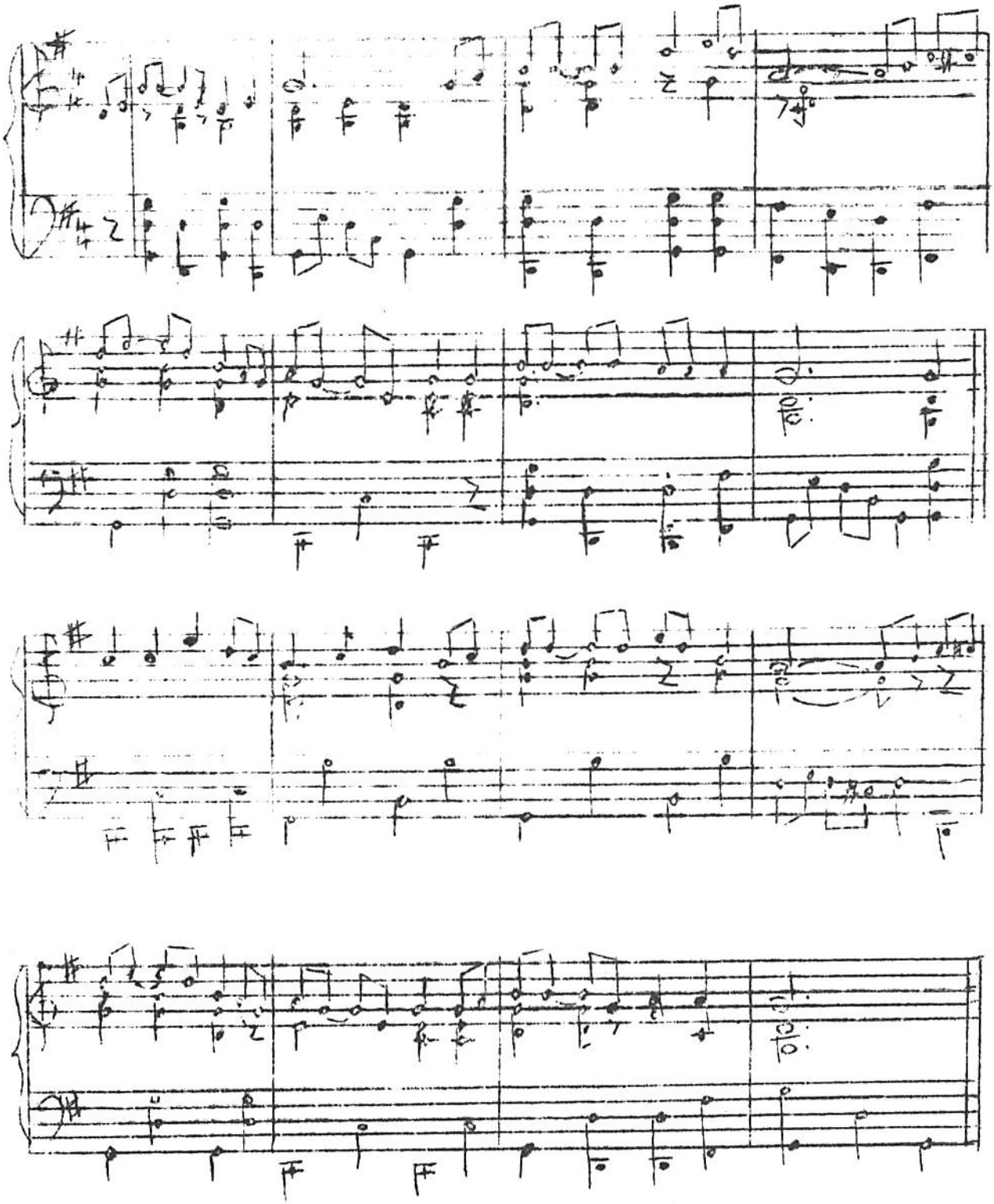
8) The same two swing in the center of the set while everybody else joins hands and circles around them back to place. They keep on swinging.

9) Swing your partner (everybody)

10) Promenade around the set.

THE OLD PINE TREE

This is a favorite song and is rapidly becoming a favorite tune for square dances.



WHIRL - A - GIG

(collected by Andy Kmetz in Inlet, New York.)

FORMATION: square set
MUSIC: Little Brown Jug
INTRODUCTION: Bow to partners, corners, circle left.
CALLS:

1) First couple out to the right and circle left

2) Swing your opposite half way 'round

3) Now the one you call your own

4) Now your opposite and don't be afraid

5) Now your own with a half promenade.

CHORUS:

6) Swing your partner

7) Promenade

EXPLANATION:

1) The first couple goes out to the couple on their right and circles left.

2) Each gent swings his opposite lady just half way around so that she ends up facing her original partner.

3) Each gent now swings his own partner just half way round.

4) Now he swings his opposite half way round.

5) Now the two gents hook left arms and place their right arms around their lady's waist and walk half way round until they are facing the next couple ready to start the figure again with them.

6) Everybody swing your partner

7) Promenade once around the set.

NOTES OF INTEREST

The American Music Festival, given annually by radio station WNYC presented several programs of folk interest. Josh White, Eli Siegmeister and his Ballad Singers, Leadbelly, Earl Robinson, Andrew Rowan Summers, Tony Kraber, the Allisons, Golden Gate Quartet and others sang American folk songs. But one certainly felt the absence of many of our best known folk singers. Pete Bowers and Burl Ives, in particular, were missed by all who have followed these annual music festivals with interest and appreciation.

The ASDG is happy to welcome back Andy Kmetz, the Adirondack Square Dance Caller. We like his style of calling, his dances, and him, and we wish he could be in New York longer than for a few short weeks. Andy calls at our rehearsals, and at our open houses, and has contributed several dances to Promenade.

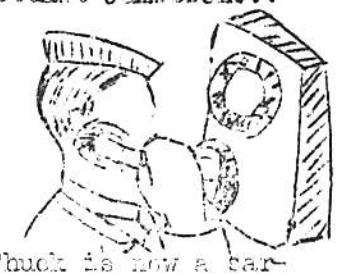
ABOUT THE COVER.

Some of us, particularly Vita Rudikoff and Margot (who have been forced by necessity to draw most of the covers for Promenade) have fallen rather into a rut as far as ideas go. And so we welcome Ben Stein's sketch for this month's cover.

Sgt. Bob Gold, one of our first boys in the service, dropped in for a visit last month. We were all very happy to see Bob again, and only wish that he could visit us more often.

One Sunday afternoon, during a rehearsal of our Junior Group, we were agreeably surprised by a long-distance call from Pvt. Stuart Jamieson... Stuy to most of us, from Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

It seems that a precedent was established by that call, for a few evenings later, we received a long- distance call from Pvt. Gene Saletan. It's good to hear their voices again, and to know that they think of us.



News reaches us that Chuck is now a sargent, and that he is gaining fame as a square dance caller...overseas! Hurrah, Chuck, you show 'em how, over-there, and we'll keep'em dancing over here.